

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

New Priorities for Public Health in Massachusetts

Regional Dialogues
October 2007

New Direction for DPH

Guiding Principles

1. Set new priorities using data and input from public and health experts
2. Rely on science and evidence-based research to guide work
3. Nurture the Department's programs and staff
4. Fight for more resources
5. Promote public health messages
6. Strengthen partnerships across Commonwealth

Accomplishments of the First 180 Days

Regional Meetings Held

- Welcomed more than 1,000 attendees at 8 dialogues with a hundreds of attendees offering their perspective
- Released five 200-page regional data reports - available on line as well as in print
- Received high profile media attention – front page articles, radio and television interviews – on importance of public health
- Made connections with the public, local elected officials, health officers and community agencies

Numerous Issues Raised

- Additional funding is needed after years of cuts – esp. for the most vulnerable
- DPH grants should allow greater flexibility to work with clients rather than only disease-specific
- Significant shortages exist in the health professions
- DPH needs to pay more attention to the needs and issues of regions outside of Boston

How we've responded

- Millions in new funding in new non-categorical RFRs
- Assist in the formation of groups to address health profession shortages
- Aggressively seek new funding from multiple sources
- Commitment to regularly visit each region and hold more forums

Regional Meetings Currently Underway

(Additional Meetings To Follow)

Southeast Regional Dialogue

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

3:30 to 6:00 PM

Wamsutta Club

427 County Street

New Bedford, MA 02740

Berkshires Regional Dialogue

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

3:30 to 6:00 PM

Mass College of Liberal Arts

Murdock Hall Room 218

375 Church Street

North Adams, MA 01247

Western Regional Dialogue

Thursday, October 25, 2007

3:30 to 6:00 PM

Holyoke Community College

Campus Center Room G-217

303 Homestead Avenue

Holyoke, MA 01040

Northeast Regional Dialogue

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

3:30 to 6:00 PM

Lynn Vocational Technical Institute

Annex Building,

90 Commercial Street

Lynn, MA 01905

Accomplishments of the First 180 Days

New Leaders and New Offices



Medical Director
Lauren Smith, MD, MPH



Director of Laboratory Sciences
Mary Gilchrist, PhD



Director of Emergency Preparedness
Mary Clark, JD, MPH



Director of Legislative Affairs
Dan Delaney



Director of Grants and Development
Edmund Dyke



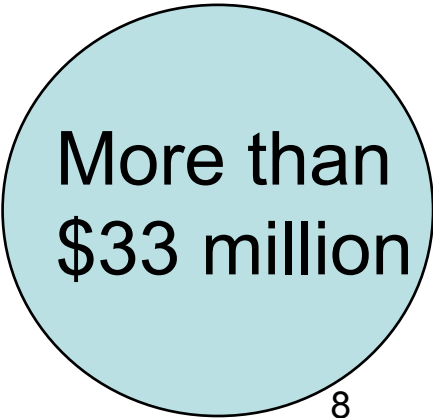
Senior Policy Advisor
Geoffrey Wilkinson

Accomplishments of the First 180 Days

Millions of dollars for new public health programs

Highlights:

- \$4.5 million for tobacco prevention
- \$2 million for violence prevention efforts
- \$2.5 million for suicide prevention
- \$8 million for substance abuse services
- \$10 million for childhood immunization efforts
- \$1 million for family planning
- \$500K for food safety program
- \$350K for shaken baby syndrome



More than
\$33 million

Highlight of new federal funding

- Substance Abuse Services: Administration for Children and Families - Family Recovering Project Grant - \$500,000/yr for 5 years
- HIV/AIDS: CDC - \$690,000/yr for 3 years
- Asthma: CDC - \$335,000
- Oral Health: HRSA - \$160,000
- Emergency Preparedness: HRSA/ASPR - \$2.4M

Accomplishments of the First 180 Days

New PHC regulations and efforts to protect health

- Regulation passed easing restriction on stem cell research
- Proposed ban on lead in children's jewelry
- Proposed regulation on "Limited Service Medical Clinics"
- Focus on increased quality including reduction of medical errors and reporting of cardiac outcomes

Accomplishments of the First 180 Days

New priorities established


- Reflect new and emerging health issues
- Data-driven with comprehensive reports
- Community-informed with input from regional dialogues and small group meetings
- Consistent with Governor Patrick's and Secretary Bigby's priorities
- Many priorities are cross-cutting and involve all areas of the Department
- Core functions of the department remain critical but may be adapted

DPH Priorities – Community Led and Data Driven


Support the Success of Healthcare Reform



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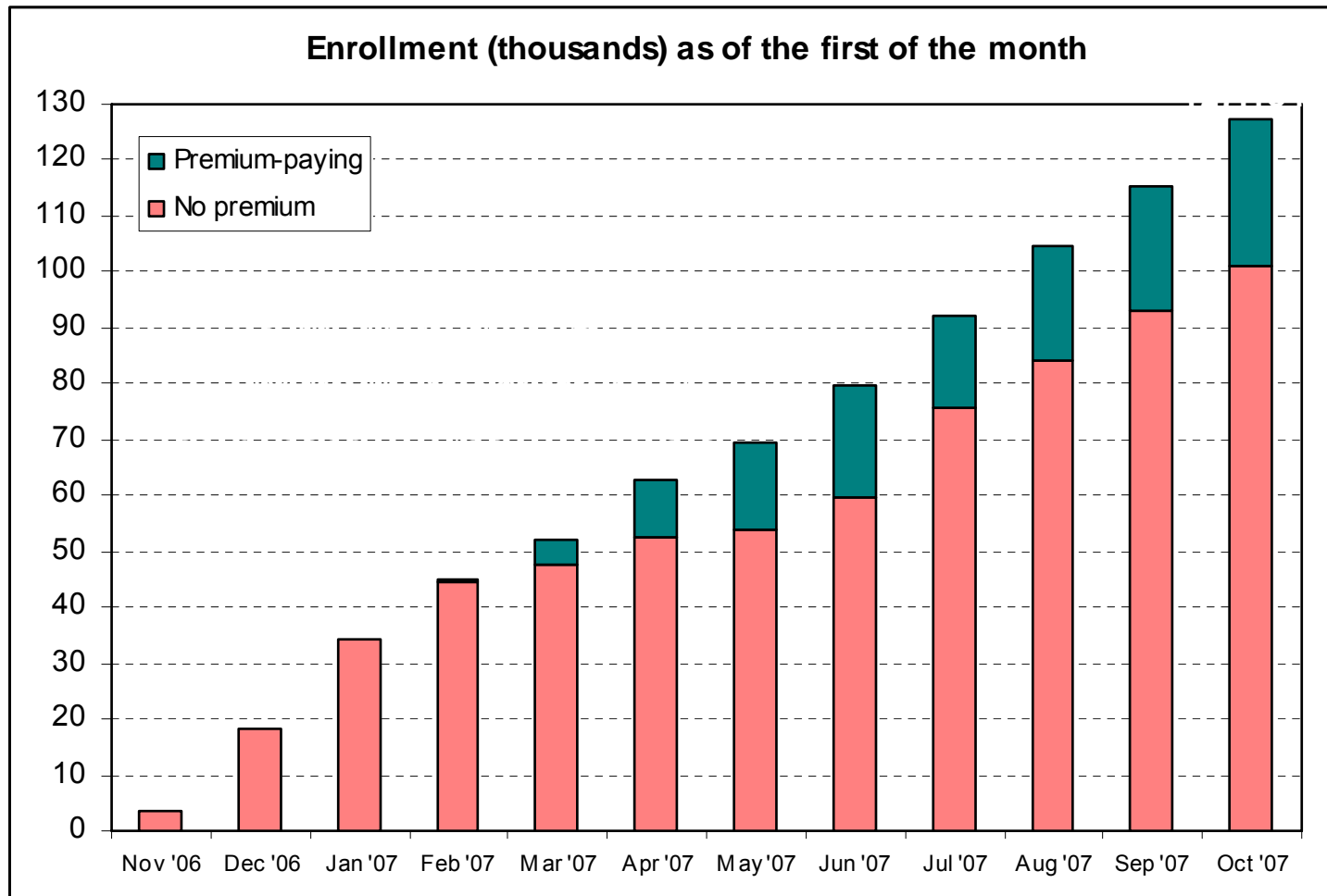


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Support the success of health care reform



Support the success of health care reform

GOALS/ACTION STEPS

- Provide training to DPH staff and contracted agencies
- Evaluate the impact of health care reform using DPH data sources (i.e BRFSS)
- Consider DPH-funded mechanisms to assist with co-payments and/or deductibles
- Assess programs to determine impact of insurance coverage on DPH services

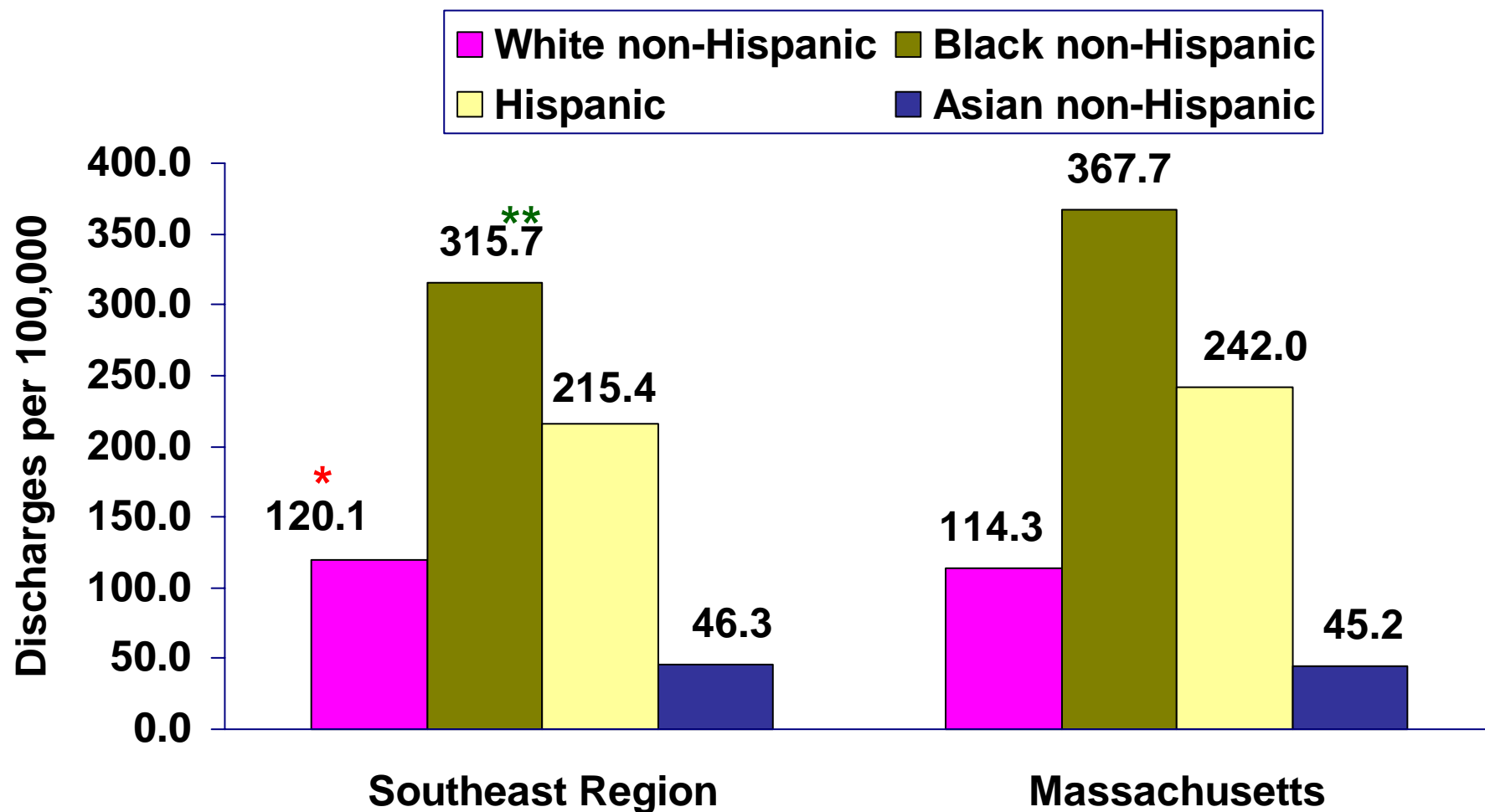
DPH Priorities – Community Led and Data Driven

Eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health



Diabetes Hospital Discharge Rate by Race/Ethnicity

Southeast Region Massachusetts: 2003-2005



Statistically different from State ($p \leq .05$) Red (*) = Statistically higher; Green (**) = Statistically lower

Age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Source: Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Calendar Year 2003-2005. Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database

Eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health

GOALS/ACTION STEPS

- Release of \$1M dollars to support innovative efforts throughout the state
- Create Office of Health Equity
- Expand collection and use of data on race and ethnicity by health programs
- Adapt existing DPH programs to reflect focus on racial and ethnic disparities
- Issue new specialized data report
- Increase workforce diversity at all levels

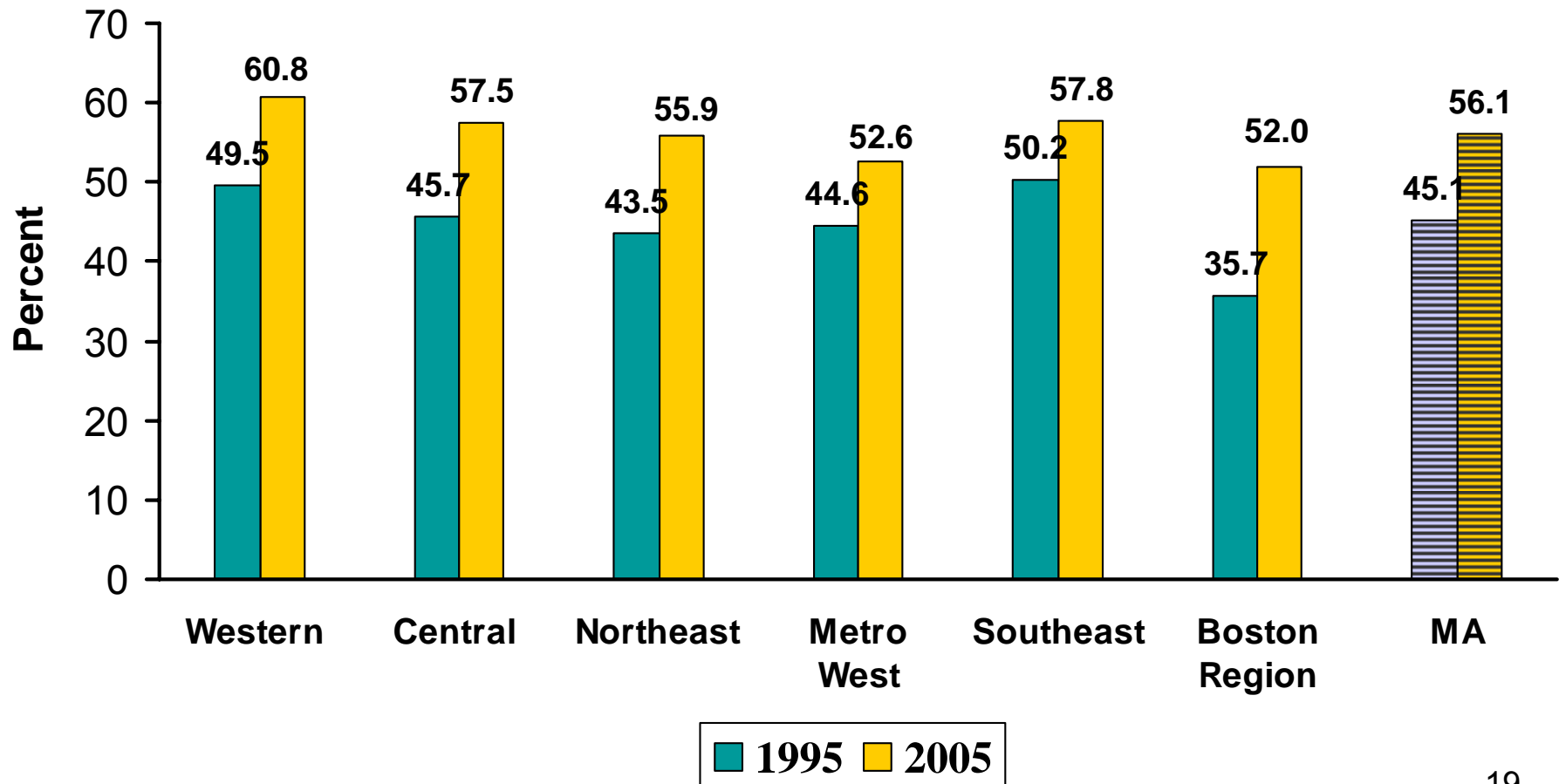
DPH Priorities – Community Led and Data Driven

Promote Wellness
in the workplace, school, community and home



Promote wellness in the workplace, school, community, home

**Adults who are Overweight by EOHHS Region,
Massachusetts 1995 & 2005**



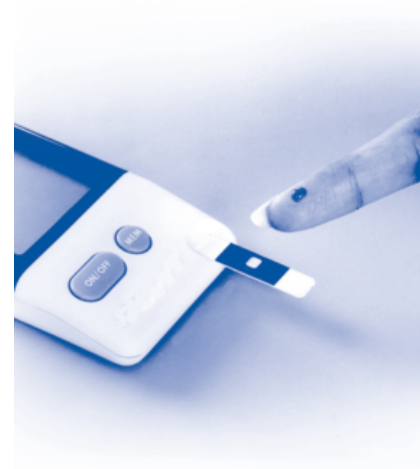
Promote wellness in the workplace, school, community, home

GOALS/ACTION STEPS

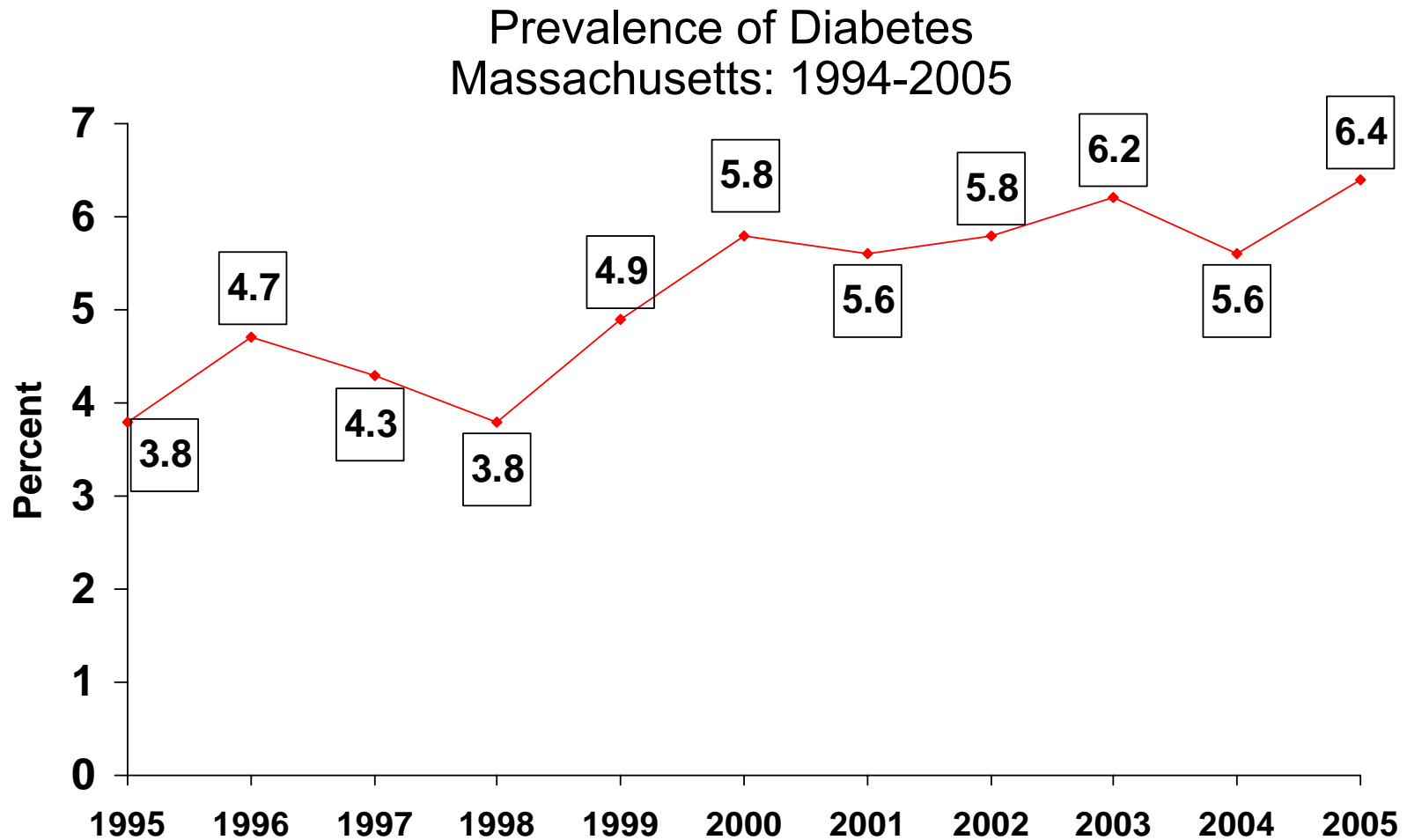
- Release of \$1M to support innovative efforts throughout the state
- Focus on diet and exercise, tobacco control, oral health and stress reduction
- Develop and enhance partnerships with schools, workplaces, and communities
- Create State interagency collaboration/campaign
- Facilitate DPH coordination and integration of wellness efforts

DPH Priorities – Community Led and Data Driven

Manage Chronic Disease



Manage chronic disease



Manage chronic disease

GOALS/ACTION STEPS

- Release of \$1M to support innovative efforts throughout the state
- Focus on comprehensive approaches to asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular, substance abuse, etc.
- Promote Community Health Workers to bridge cultural gaps in self management
- Give more flexible and less categorical funding to external agencies – reduce silos
- Support efforts outside the health care facility to improve chronic disease management

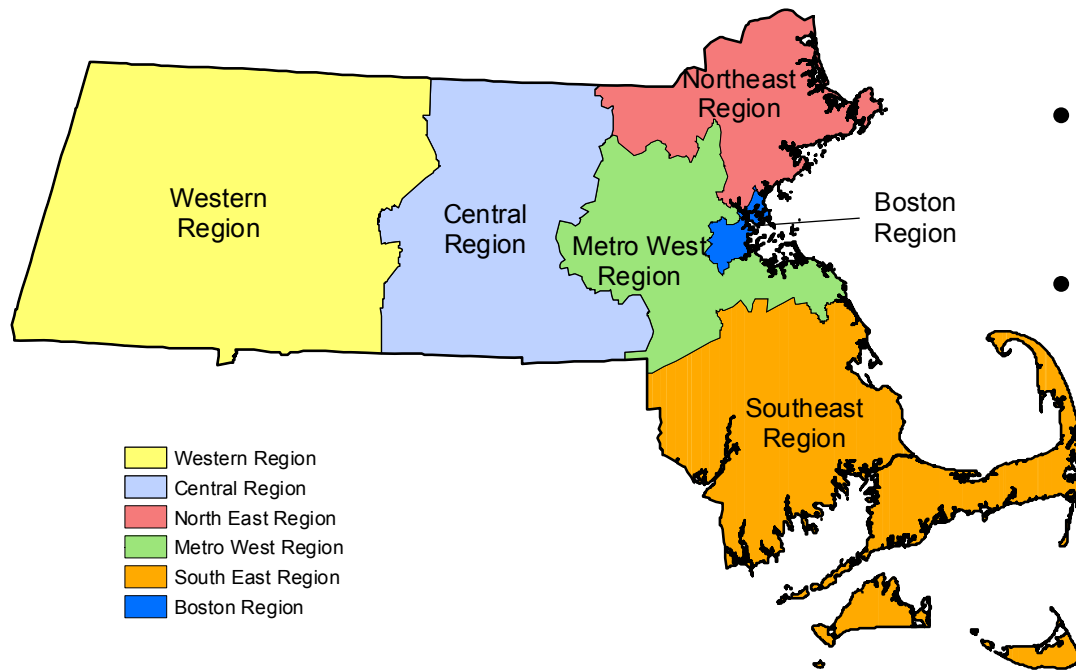
DPH Priorities – Community Led and Data Driven

Build public health capacity at local and state levels



Build public health capacity at local and state levels

Executive Office of Health and Human Services Regions



- Population: 6.3 million
- Local Boards of Health: 351
- Local decision-making is key
- Limited coordination among communities

Build public health capacity at local and state levels

GOALS/ACTION STEPS:

- Support regionalization process
- Increase grants and external funding for local public health departments – EP and Tobacco Control
- Support local response to WNV/EEE
- Provide additional DPH staff support for local health departments
- Assess Regional Office structure
- Reestablish Southeastern Regional Office

DPH Priorities – Community Led and Data Driven

Maintain commitment to core public health activities



Nursing Home Report Card	
Administration	<u>A</u>
Nursing	<u>A</u>
Resident Rights	<u>B</u>
Food Service	<u>B</u>
Environment	<u>A</u>
DPH	



Maintain commitment to core public health activities

GOALS/ACTION STEPS:

- Strengthen evidence-based decision making at Public Health Council and throughout DPH
- New regulations to protect the public and increase access to primary care
- Strengthen data and research
- Highlight achievements of programs across DPH
- Increase efforts for funding for key areas without clear advocacy support

Next Steps

- Regular regional meetings will be held
- Distribution of new funding across silos
- New data reports
- Continue implementation of priorities
- Finalize organizational structure
- Preparation for FY09 initiatives and budget

